

SYN. NO. _____

AGN. NO.

MOTION BY SUPERVISORS DON KNABE & GLORIA MOLINA

October 18, 2005

We all know that in the past, potent flu strains have sometimes emerged, infecting millions who lack immunity and causing many to die.

We also know that our lead County health officer, Dr. Jonathan Fielding and the Dean of UCLA's School of Public Health, Dr. Linda Rosenstock, worry that the County is insufficiently prepared for such an epidemic, especially if a strain of flu prevalent today in Asian birds mutates further to become the new strain that can be transmitted from person to person and is associated with serious disease.

Public Health has been working on a Pandemic Flu Plan for over one year. While the plan covers all of the key areas of concern, there are inherent problems with the lack of availability of anti-viral agents and of an effective vaccine that can be administered in advance.

This concern comes at a time when Los Angeles County's public health operation is reorganizing by separating from Health Services Department into its own Department of Public Health. This is an opportunity to show the value of this change,

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by asking our Public Health people to provide focus, creativity and leadership on this issue. Specifically, they can tell us what further steps can reasonably be taken within the County to strengthen:

1. Prevention, to minimize the impact on our population in the event that avian flu becomes the next pandemic, and,
2. Preparedness, so that when the next pandemic does occur, our disaster plans provide for rapid acquisition of the facilities, staff and medicines needed to minimize complications and deaths and to best protect the well.

I, THEREFORE MOVE that the Board of Supervisors instruct Public Health to report back in 30 days with his assessment of the County's anti-pandemic flu prevention and preparedness programs and the steps he recommends to strengthen them.

This is to be done in consultation and coordination with other experts and vital constituencies, including the County's Office of Emergency Management, Emergency Medical Services Agency, County Hospital and Clinic operations, local schools of medicine and public health, medical and hospital associations, area chambers of commerce, the State Department of Health Services, the California Conference of Local Health Officers and the U.S. Center for Communicable Disease Control.

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